

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge the indication of the allowability of the subject matter of Claims 20-28 (all claims of record in the application) as set forth in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action. In particular, Claim 20 would be allowable if amended to overcome the formal rounds of rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, while Claims 21-28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the reasons set forth hereinafter, Applicants respectfully submit that all such claims are in fact now allowable.

Claims 20-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, based on a formal issued cited in item 2 of the Office Action. In particular, the Office Action notes that the recitation of “operation support functions” is recited in the preamble to Claim 20, but that no structure is claimed for performing such support functions.

As discussed with the Examiner, Mr. Gregory, on July 12, 2006, Applicants have addressed this issue in a manner which is believed to resolve the cited formal issue. Specifically, the preamble to Claim 20 has been amended to recite “control means for performing” a plurality of operation support functions, and the last paragraph of the claim has been amended to refer back to such control means. Accordingly, as discussed, it is believed that Claim 20 as

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amended is now clear and definite, and reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection are respectfully requested.

In light of the foregoing remarks, this application should be in condition for allowance, and early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056203.50959C1).

Respectfully submitted,



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